

STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: 04/09/04
Agenda Item: 8

To: BEACON Board of Directors
From: Technical Advisor
Date 03/31/04

Subject: Coast of California Storm & Tidal Wave Study

REQUIRED ACTION:

- a. Authorize Executive Director to approve Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement with the Department of Army for conducting a Coast of California Storm & Tidal Wave Study in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.
- b. Direct staff to investigate sources of funding for local matching funds.

DISCUSSION:

The Army Corps of Engineer's Coast of California Storm & Tidal Wave Study (CCSTWS) program seeks to develop regional shore protection/sand management plans for the entire California coastline. The program is being implemented by region/county basis, with San Diego being first, followed by Monterey, Los Angeles, and Orange County. Now, it's Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties' turn.

The purpose of the study is to gain a better understanding of the underlying coastal processes that govern the width of our beaches and the movement of sand along our coastline. The study does not focus on individual beach erosion problems and/or solutions. The scope of the study is set forth in the Project Master Plan (PMP). The study includes a series of wave and coastal bathymetry measurements as well as an in-depth assessment of local coastal processes. The overall cost of the study is \$2.78M, spread out over a four-year period. The primary benefits of the study will be a better understanding of our local coastal processes and beach erosion problems, an improved set of tools to predict future beach erosion patterns in our region, and a means for rapidly disseminating the information to interested government planning, engineering and regulatory agencies.

As the local sponsor, BEACON is being asked by the Army to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA). The FCSA stipulates that BEACON will be responsible for 50% of the cost of the study (\$1.39M), which can be made up of cash or in-kind services. The State can also contribute towards the local sponsor's share of the cost. This commitment is non-binding on either party, with the study being delayed if Federal and/or Local funds are not available. The Army won't know if it has this year's Federal funds for the project until the FY04/05 budget is passed.



A California Joint Powers Agency

Member Agencies

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City of San Buenaventura
City of Santa Barbara
County of Santa Barbara
County of Ventura

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BEACON BOARD OF DIRECTORS' MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

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The State Department of Boating & Waterways (DB&W) has offered to contribute \$285K of in-kind services in Year 1 and \$300K in Year 2. DB&W hasn't indicated whether or not they can contribute in Years 3 and 4. Based on the scope and costs set forth in the PMP, and factoring in DB&W's in-kind services, BEACON will be expected to provide the following cash or in-kind services:

Year 1 (Oct 04 to Sep 05)	\$41,875
Year 2 (Oct 05 to Sep 06)	\$54,375
Year 3 (Oct 06 to Sep 07)	\$356,875
Year 4 (Oct 07 to Sep 08)	\$351,875

In theory, local-cost share funds must be available at the start of the year in order for the Army and its contractors to begin work on that year's tasks. In reality, some tasks can be started if a portion of the cost-share funds is available. With DB&W putting up most of the local cost-share funds in Years 1 & 2, BEACON's share won't be needed until later part of Years 1 and 2 (i.e., summer). BEACON's full cost-share would be needed for Years 3 and 4.

The funds needed for Year 1 have not been included in BEACON's proposed budget for FY 04/05. It may be possible to cover a portion of the required funds in Years 1 and 2 through in-kind services by BEACON member agencies. This portion is likely to be insignificant in Years 3 and 4 without significant help from DB&W. Another option may be to increase the duration of the study, thereby reducing the yearly costs. Still another option would be to reduce the scope of the study. The Army Corps of Engineers has said it is willing to work with us to adjust the scope and cost of the study as necessary.

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